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ADVOCATE OF PEACE.

AUGUST, 1852.

A WORD TO GOOD MEN ON PEACE.

THE PEACE SOCIETY aims to do away the Custom of International War, and hopes to accomplish this its sole object by gradually bringing nations into the habit of settling their disputes by other and better means, in essentially the same way that individuals do theirs—first by negotiation, or amicable agreement between the parties themselves, if they can; but, if not, then by such expedients as occasional Reference, Stipulated Arbitration, or a Congress of Nations.

A result like this, however, can be reached only by a general change of public opinion; and such a change the friends of peace have already begun to produce not only here and in England, but more or less through the civilized world. Public opinion on this subject is confessedly very different now from what it was at the commencement of our efforts more than one third of a century ago. It is owing in no small degree to the change thus effected, that the general peace of Christendom—not always between its rulers and their subjects, but between its *nations*—has been preserved ever since the downfall of Napoleon in 1815; and but for this change we could ourselves have hardly escaped a war with England in the case of either the Canadian troubles in 1837, or the North-Eastern Boundary in 1840, or the dispute about Oregon in 1845. These efforts have availed of late, as might be shown, to diminish the war-expenses of Great Britain and the United States, in a time of peace, not less than twenty or thirty millions a year.

Do you ask *how* we prosecute this work of peace? Partly by lecturing-agencies, but mainly by the press. We have prepared and stereotyped popular volumes, and a series of nearly 70 tracts, which we circulate through the land as fast and far as we can get funds, and meanwhile employ just enough of agency service to keep these at work on the public mind, and to enlist preachers, instructors, and our periodicals of every kind, but especially newspapers, in the advocacy of this cause.

In such ways we have already accomplished much with very small means, but not even a tithe of what *ought* to be done. We need far more co-workers; and will *you* not help us in this great and good work? The sum of \$20 will make you a member of the American Peace Society for life, and \$2 a year an annual member, entitling you in each case to all our current publications; or, if you give only \$1, we shall return you our periodical for a year, to awaken, we hope, a deeper, more active interest in our cause.

We think good men ought to understand this cause far better than most of them now do; for their lack of interest in it arises mainly from their want of thorough, familiar acquaintance with its claims. Are you fully aware yourself how much good it has already done, even with its very slender means, or what a vast amount of blessings it is fitted and destined yet to diffuse—how much property and life it will save; how much poverty and suffering, how many vices and crimes, what a multitude of evils for time and eternity, it will prevent; how efficient a pioneer and auxiliary it will become to every effort for the world's improvement and salvation? Does not such a cause deserve your aid?

THE ENGLISH MILITIA BILL.

Our friends are all aware of the bill, just passed by the British Legislature, to raise a large Militia; and, as resistance to this measure forms the burden of what we design in this number to quote from the recent proceedings of our co-workers in England, we give here the substance of its provisions:—

1. Eighty thousand men are to be raised within the next two years. An attempt is to be made in the first instance to obtain these men by voluntary enlistment, by means of a bounty of \$6, to be paid at once for five years service, or by a retaining fee of 2s. 6d. per month, or *one penny per day*.

2. But if in any district a sufficient number of volunteers cannot be obtained by this magnificent bribe, the whole male population, between the ages of 18 and 35, shall be subjected to the ballot.

3. The militia men are to be called out for exercise twenty-one days in the year; but this may be extended, at the pleasure of the crown, to seven weeks, or reduced to two or three days.

4. The men are to be placed under the discipline and control of half-pay officers of the army, by whom the force is to be officered.

5. The *estimated* cost to the country is £400,000 for the first year, £200,000 the second year, and a permanent annual charge ever after of about £390,000. But General Reid said in the House, that "he believed it would be double that."

These are the principal provisions which appear on the face of the bill. But let no one dream that this is all it contains. Far from it; one of its clauses enacts, that *all the provisions of the Act 22nd of George the Third shall extend to this Act*.

Turning, then, to the 22nd of George the Third, what do we find? We find, among other things, the following, which we earnestly commend to the attention of young men who may be insane enough to incline to volunteer in this force, or who may be drawn by the ballot.